PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 29th October 2026:

08:30 – 09:00	***Welcome Coffee and Registration***		
09:00 – 09:30	***Opening Speeches***		
09:30 – 10:30	***"Explain your research in 5 minutes" challenge - Day 1 - Zone 4: Lightning Stage – MRC Foyer*** • *Cosmological Artificial Intelligence – Mark Pace, Gabriel Farrugia, Rebecca Briffa, Konstantinos Dialektopoulos* • *LHC BCM MIBAD Simulator – Kevin Theuma,* • *DIVES: Developing an AI-Driven Methodological Framework for Audience Engagement in Live Event Production – Ian Attard* • *Macroeconomic Drivers of Quarterly Residential Building Approvals in Malta - Stephen Cricchiola, Karl Camilleri* • *Parents' Lived Experiences of Recreational Spaces and Children's Physical Activity in*	***ALL DAY*** ***Interactive research posters (QR codes and/or short videos) - Day 1 - Zone 1: Interactive Research Presentations: MRC Foyer*** • *A Simulation-Based Empirical Benchmark of Reinforcement Learning Agents for Concentrated Liquidity Management – Franco Farrugia, Cedric Deguara, Philip Henk*	***ALL DAY*** ***Touchscreens with bite-sized findings - Day 1 - Zone 1: Interactive Research Presentations: MRC Auditorium*** • *Lifelong learning and senior well-being: An empirical evaluation of MCAST's Community College for the Third Age – Marisabelle Camilleri* • *SELBI: From Vision to Impact - Project Development,*

	• *Malta – Johann Zarb, Amanda Farrugia, Fiona Wilson* • *Sustainable Structural Optimization of Specialized Multi-Tier Steel Trusses for Multi-Directional Large-Span Cantilevered Commercial Buildings in Seismic Zones – Joseph Falzon* • *The Capability Approach as a Framework for Elite Sport Development in Small States – Corissa Vella White* • *Relational Mechanisms of Brief Positive Psychology Interventions - Elaine Atkins, Isabelle Zammit, Claire Abela* • *Immediate Mood Changes Following Brief Positive Psychology Interventions - Elaine Atkins, Isabelle Zammit, Claire Abela* • *Why Classroom Connections Matter for Student Resilience – Isabelle Zammit, Elaine Atkins, Claire Abela* • *Explaining Academic Anxiety in higher education through Academic Self-efficacy and Affective Well-being: Evidence from Parallel Mediation and Moderation Analyses - Claire Abela, Isabelle Zammit, Elaine Atkins*	• *Sustainable Structural Optimization of Specialized Multi-Tier Steel Trusses for Multi-Directional Large-Span Cantilevered Commercial Buildings in Seismic Zones – Joseph Falzon* • *A Comparative Evaluation of the Economic and Environmental Performance of Utilizing Energy-Efficient Materials for Construction Projects in Malta Through Whole-Life Cost Analysis and Carbon Impact Assessment – Jospeh Falzon, Jake Grech* • *Project ICARUS: Aerial Detection and Geospatial Reporting of Coastal Debris – Thomas Gatt, Daren Scerri* • *MEDSEAPLAN: Advancing Ocean Literacy and GIS-Based Ecological Prioritization for Mediterranean Marine Spatial Planning - Alfonso Siciliano, Francis Delicata, Kimberly Terribile, Francesca Busuttil, Geraldine Spiteri* • *The future of personalised learning: new technologies and new learning opportunities - Marta Skierniewska* • *Choreographing Carob Ecologies through the ETD Ecosomatic Workshop – Shuntaro Yoshida* • *EngageALL: Advancing Civic Participation, Belonging and Inclusive Student Engagement in Stakeholder Insights and Future Directions - Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile* • *Constrained Voices: Crime and Court Reporting in Malta's Polarised Media Landscape – Thea Gauci, Rosemarie Calleja* • *Laid Bare with LabelEd+: Shopper Perceptions of Supermarket Food Labels - Daniela Cassola, Johann Zarb, Clara Chetcuti* • *EngageALL: Advancing Civic Participation, Belonging and Inclusive Student Engagement in Professional Higher Education – Christianne Gatt Fenech, Heathcliff Schembri, Claire Sciberras* • *T.I.M.E.talk: Teaching Inquiry through Malta's Eras Using Artificial Intelligence – Heathcliff Schembri* • *Education Matters: The Early Years – Advancing Early Childhood Scholarship through Research Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange – Heathcliff Schembri, Matthew Muscat-Inglott, Ann Marie Cassar* • *From bedside to teaching practice: Transitioning ICU expertise into academic practice - Luciano Midolo, Cassandra Sturgeon Delia, Francesca Trotta*
11:30 – 12:00	***What the research could do for you - talk and/or visualisation of transformation if research were to be implemented in the community - Day 1 - Zone 3: Community Impact Corner – MRC Room 001*** • *Cosmological Artificial Intelligence – Mark Pace, Gabriel Farrugia, Rebecca Briffa, Konstantinos Dialektopoulos*		

	• *SELBI: From Vision to Impact - Project Development, Stakeholder Insights and Future Directions - Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile* • *The future of personalised learning: new technologies and new learning opportunities - Marta Skierniewska* • *EngageALL: Advancing Civic Participation, Belonging and Inclusive Student Engagement in Professional Higher Education – Christianne Gatt Fenech, Heathcliff Schembri, Claire Sciberras* • *Education Matters: The Early Years – Advancing Early Childhood Scholarship through Research Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange – Heathcliff Schembri, Matthew Muscat-Inglott, Ann Marie Cassar*	*Professional Higher Education – Christianne Gatt Fenech, Heathcliff Schembri, Claire Sciberras* • *T.I.M.E.talk: Teaching Inquiry through Malta's Eras Using Artificial Intelligence – Heathcliff Schembri* • *Education Matters: The Early Years – Advancing Early Childhood Scholarship through Research Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange – Heathcliff Schembri, Matthew Muscat-Inglott, Ann Marie Cassar*	***"Did you know?" challenge cards - Day 1 - Zone 1: Interactive Research Presentations: MRC Auditorium*** • *Education Matters: The Early Years – Advancing Early Childhood Scholarship through Research Dissemination and Knowledge Exchange – Heathcliff Schembri, Matthew Muscat-Inglott, Ann Marie Cassar* • *Building the Bridge: Transforming AI from a Disruptor to a Pedagogical Partner - Ivan De Battista, Cassandra Sturgeon Delia*
13:00 – 14:00	***"Explain your research in 5 minutes" challenge - Day 1 - Zone 4: Lightning Stage – MRC Foyer*** • *Domestic Violence in Migrant Communities in Malta – Faith Vella, Darren Chetcuti* • *Masculinity and Gender-Based Violence: Assessing the Intersections between Policy Dynamics, Popular Movements and Digital Spaces - Beverley Abela Gatt, Janice Fenech Scicluna, Darren Chetcuti* • *Students' motivation to further their studies at MCAST: A case study of students who progressed from MQF/EQF level 2 to level 3 at the Institute of Community Services - Christiana Gauci Sciberras, Darren Chetcuti*		***Research in action: prototypes, demonstrations and experiments - Day 1 - Zone 1: Interactive Research Presentations: MRC Auditorium*** • *DIVES: Developing an AI-Driven Methodological Framework for Audience Engagement in Live Event Production – Ian Attard* • *SELBI: From Vision to Impact - Project Development, Stakeholder Insights and Future Directions - Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis*

	• *MEDSEAPLAN: Advancing Ocean Literacy and GIS-Based Ecological Prioritization for Mediterranean Marine Spatial Planning - Kimberly Terribile, Francis Delicata, Alfonso Siciliano, Francesca Busuttil, Geraldine Spiteri* • *SafeMeds: Building an International Research Network to Strengthen Organisational Culture and Medication Safety – Lorna Bonnici West, Neville Schembri, Hannah-Kim Grima Formosa, Kevin Holmes, Marie Clare Cassar, Amy Castro, Corinne Bowman, Christian Bonnici West, Shane Desselle, Timothy Chen, Maria Cordina* • *MCAST Semiconductor Evaluation Laboratories – Barnaby Portelli* • *Building the Bridge: Transforming AI from a Disruptor to a Pedagogical Partner - Ivan De Battista, Cassandra Sturgeon Delia* • *Pharmaceutical Access in Small States: A Grounded Theory Study - Bernardette Scerri Rossi, Neville Schembri, Lorna Bonnici West* • *High-Precision GNSS Positioning for Collaborative Robotics - Steve Zerafa* • *From Tool to Heirloom: The Story of the Maltese Plover Whistle – Natalino Fenech* • *SELBI: From Vision to Impact - Project Development, Stakeholder Insights and Future Directions - Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile*		*Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile* • *T.I.M.E.talk: Teaching Inquiry through Malta's Eras Using Artificial Intelligence – Heathcliff Schembri* • *High-Precision GNSS Positioning for Collaborative Robotics - Steve Zerafa* ***Digital quizzes (online or app-based) - Day 1 - Zone 2: Research Explained through Games & Gamification: MRC Auditorium*** • *Lifelong learning and senior well-being: An empirical evaluation of MCAST's Community College for the Third Age – Marisabelle Camilleri* • *MEDSEAPLAN: Advancing Ocean Literacy and GIS-Based Ecological Prioritization for Mediterranean Marine Spatial Planning - Francis Delicata, Alfonso Siciliano, Kimberly Terribile, Francesca Busuttil, Geraldine Spiteri* • *The future of personalised learning: new technologies and new learning opportunities - Marta Skierniewska*
16:30	***Closure***		

Friday 30th October 2026:

08:30 – 09:00	***Welcome Coffee and Registration***
09:00 – 09:30	***Welcome Speeches***
09:30 – 10:15	***Lightning Talks: "Ideas That Matter"***
	• *From Campus to Living Lab: Turning MCAST Energy Infrastructure into a Research and Innovation Platform - Brian Azzopardi* • *Parents' Lived Experiences of Recreational Spaces and Children's Physical Activity in Malta - Johann Zarb, Amanda Farrugia, Fiona Wilson* • *SELBI: From Vision to Impact - Project Development, Stakeholder Insights and Future Directions - Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile* • *MEDSEAPLAN: Advancing Ocean Literacy and GIS-Based Ecological Prioritization for Mediterranean Marine Spatial Planning - Alfonso Siciliano, Francis Delicata, Kimberly Terribile, Francesca Busuttil, Geraldine Spiteri* • *Development and Adoption of Alternative Protein Products in the Mediterranean Region - Christine Costa, Frederick Lia, Alex Johnson* • *From bedside to teaching practice: Transitioning ICU expertise into academic practice - Luciano Midolo, Cassandra Sturgeon Delia, Francesca Trotta* • *High-Precision GNSS Positioning for Collaborative Robotics - Steve Zerafa*
10:15 – 10:30	*Coffee Break*
10:30 – 12:00	***Innovation Sprint***

12:00 – 13:00	*Lunch Break*
13:00 – 14:30	***Innovation and Valorisation Pitch Session***
14:30 - 15:00	***Closure***